

Appl. No. 09/804,973
Amdt. dated March 4, 2005

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on February 28, 2005.

In this Amendment, claims 56, 65, 84-93, and 95 are amended and claims 83 and 99 are canceled. Claims 56, 65, and 95 are amended to correct minor typographical errors.

Status of Office Action

Initially, it is unclear whether or not the Office Action is a final Office Action. The last page of the Office Action indicates that the Office Action is not final, while the cover sheet of the Office Action indicates that the Office Action is final. Despite this ambiguity, as will be explained below, Applicants are putting all claims in condition for allowance and are timely filing this Amendment. Accordingly, if the Office Action is a final Office Action, Applicants request entry of this Amendment since the changes in this Amendment will place the claims in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that additional prosecution is needed, the Examiner is requested to clarify the status of the February 28, 2005 Office Action.

Rejection based on Wilson

In the Office Action, claims 83, 85, 86, 91, 93-95 and 100 are rejected as being anticipated by Wilson (US 5,082,232). This rejection is traversed.

However, in the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 56, 59, 61-67, and 69-82 are allowed and that claims 84, 87-90, 92, and 96-99 would all allowable if rewritten into independent form. The Examiner is sincerely and earnestly thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter.

To expedite the prosecution of this matter, claims 84, 87-90, and 92 have been amended so that they are in independent form. Claim 93 has been amended to include the limitation in dependent claim 99. Accordingly, claims 84, 87-90, 92, and 93 and any dependent

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claims thereon are now in condition for allowance along with allowed claims 56, 59, 61-67, and 69-82.

Of the claims that are rejected over Wilson, claim 83 is canceled, claims 85-86 depend from allowable independent claim 84, claim 91 depends from allowable independent claim 90, claim 93 was amended to include the limitation in allowable dependent claim 99, and claims 94-98 and 100 depend from allowable independent claim 93.

Although Applicants have canceled the rejected claims, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the rejected claims in a continuation application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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